Appl. No. 10/716,297 Atty. Docket No. CM1924MCC Amdt. dated January 8, 2004 Reply to Office N/A Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Only new Claims 21–35 are pending in the present application.

Claim 21 was amended to correct a typographical error. Support for such amendment can be found in the original claims and specification, see for example, page 4, line 11 of Applicants' specification.

Claims 1-20 were canceled without prejudice in the first preliminary amendment.

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants contend that Claims 21-35 are free of the art and request that the present application be passed to issue. In the event there are remaining issues, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney to discuss such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettiol et al.

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January 8, 2004 Customer No. 27752